

1415 Grand Avenue #1
San Diego, California 92109
November 12, 1972

The ADVOCATE
P. O. Box 74695
Los Angeles, California 90004

Dear Editor:

It has occurred to me that even though there are often newsworthy events in San Diego concerning the large Gay community here, there is rarely any coverage of those events by the Advocate. This campaign '72 has provided another such event, and one that I feel is significant enough to shared with the national Gay community; particularly with that segment of the community which frequently expresses the attitude that their Gayness is not an issue and no criterion for helping to make a decision on which candidate deserves their vote.

I am referring to the upset victory by Larry Kapiloff over Richard Barnes in the 78th Assembly district. Mr Barnes, one of the biggest homophobes in the western hemisphere--as readers of the Advocate well know from your reports of his Bible-waving hysterics in last year's Assembly debate on the Brown bill--was making a bid for his sixth term. His upset is even more fantastic when considered against a backdrop of a few other facts: Mr Barnes was an arch-conservative running in one of the most conservative areas in southern California; he is a Republican in a year of a Republican presidential landslide; he came out strongly in favor of proposition 17 (reinstating the death penalty) which the voters supported heavily, and strongly against proposition 19 (California marijuana initiative) which was voted down by a 2-to-1 margin. In view of these political considerations one would have expected Mr. Barnes to win another term. And he almost did!

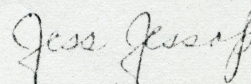
But in spite of the odds against Mr Kappiloff, the new Gay Activists Alliance of San Diego endorsed his bid for the Assembly and set out to make his victory a reality. Encouraged by the response he received from a few Gay people early in the campaign, Larry addressed meetings of GLF and MCC and even carried his campaign to the major bars of San Diego--certainly a first in this town. Gays worked in the office as well as in the streets, and during the last weekend before the election GAA circulated 3000 "Gay-Power-for-Kapiloff" flyers like the one enclosed.

On November 7th Kapiloff pulled 51.2% of the total vote--a close enough margin for the Gay vote to have made the difference. We of GAA believe that the Gay vote DID make the difference because every registered Gay person in the 78th district that we talked to promised to vote for Larry. Mr Kapiloff himself has personally acknowledged the value of the Gay support he received and he is very grateful. I think that his success story is worthy of coverage by the Advocate and I'm sure that he'd be very receptive to an interview.

However, the important point here is that a very small group of activists have helped bring about a very beneficial change. Not only have we helped oust a very outspoken enemy of Gay civil rights, but we have replaced him with a very outspoken advocate of Gay civil rights. During this campaign we have also received pledges of future support for the Brown bill from Wadie Deddah (77th district) and Pete Chacon (79th district). Can you dig it? That's at least 3 "yes" votes (out of a possible 5) in San Diego County where last year we got ZERO support. If it can happen in San Diego County, it can happen anywhere in California!

So we hope that our brothers and sisters in other counties will perservere. Maybe like us, they'll be surprised at the results of their own efforts. Won't you please help raise all our consciousness by printing our success story and helping us share our happiness.

Yours in struggle,



Jess Jessop
Gay Activists Alliance San Diego

CC: Larry Kapiloff